

The volume of coverage related to our **UNRETURNED** veterans continues, most of it events and programs before, during and after Veterans Day, November 11th. I continue to be reminded of the impact on today's Armed forces and civilians serving abroad, many in dangerous areas of our world. We have received many communications from active duty personnel who have held runs, Missing Man Honors Ceremonies, etc., including in Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, England and throughout the US, including numerous military bases, posts and stations. Never in 40 years have I observed a higher level of interest and support. Now it the time to maximize that before it is too late. As ever,
Ann

Subject: LSU Unveils Beautiful Football Stadium Tribute to POW/MIAs



College football fans are among some of the most patriotic sports fans in the country – and that’s especially true in the Southeastern Conference. For the sake of full disclosure, I’m a Tennessee Volunteer. I wear orange on game day, memorized General Neyland’s seven maxims and know all the lyrics to Rocky Top. The Southeastern Conference is home to some of the greatest football programs and coaches and players and rivalries in the nation. But when it comes to honoring America – SEC football fans don’t bleed crimson or orange or purple

and gold. They bleed red, white and blue. You won't see our football players taking a knee on game day.

And that brings me to something that happened the other day at Tiger Stadium on the campus of Louisiana State University – a place known to football fans as Death Valley.

On Thursday **LSU** unveiled a “Chair of Honor” – a permanent tribute to American prisoners of war and soldiers who are missing in action. The chair is located in the north end zone – where the **LSU** football team takes the field. Alongside the “Chair of Honor” is a plaque reading:

“This unoccupied seat is in honor of those who are still prisoners of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA) and symbolizes there will always be a place in this stadium awaiting their return.”

The “Chair of Honor” will remain empty and will be guarded on each side during home football games by members of the **LSU** Corps of Cadets, the university said in a prepared statement. “We are extremely honored to be part of this program,” athletics director Joe Alleva said. “**LSU** has such a rich military tradition and to be able to pay tribute to those who served our country in Tiger Stadium with the “Chair of Honor” is something we are proud of.”

That’s mighty classy, **LSU**. Mighty classy.
By Todd Starnes/Twitter

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The League is a tax-exempt, humanitarian organization (23-7071242), eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign, #10218

The link below goes to a story about tearing down a WWI Memorial in Maryland. The American Legion is fighting this destruction. There is no question that those who support our Veterans should speak up and speak out against this atheistic effort to remove all symbols of historic religious honor for those who serve our country.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2017/10/18/federal-court-rules-world-war-memorial-cross-must-be-torn-down.html>

GOVERNMENT

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Vietnam-US defence dialogue takes place in Washington DC

Deputy Defence Minister Sen. Lieut. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for South and Southeast Asia of the US Dr. Joseph Felter co-chaired the Vietnam-US defence policy dialogue 2017 in Washington D.C on October 17.



At the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the Vietnam's Institute for Defence Strategy and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies

The two sides learned updated security challenges in the Asian-Pacific region, and discussed solutions to foster bilateral cooperation within the Vietnam-US comprehensive partnership. They shared viewpoints on world and regional issues of mutual concern. Both sides evaluated their cooperation outcomes in 2017 and sketched out orientations for the affiliation in 2018 and the following years in compliance with the memorandum of understanding on strengthening defence cooperation signed in 2011 and the declaration on joint vision on defence affiliation released in 2015. They also sought to realize agreements between the two defence ministries reached during Defence Minister General Ngo Xuan Lich's visit to the US in August 2017.

Addressing the dialogue, Vinh said that Vietnam has launched its Peacekeeping Centre in Hanoi and highlighted potential for cooperation in military medicine, especially when Vietnam is preparing to launch level-two field hospital as part of its UN peacekeeping mission.

He lauded bilateral cooperation in seeking information and remains of Vietnamese and US soldiers died during the war, saying it is a spotlight in the two countries' defence affiliation and affirming Vietnam has full capacity in searching for missing-in-action (MIA) servicemen of the US. Vinh proposed that the US Defence Department continue supporting the implementation of bilateral agreements in clearing wartime unexploded explosives, while continuing encouraging international organisations to engage in the work.

He said that the dioxin detoxification in Da Nang airport has finished beyond expectations, adding that the Vietnamese side will announce the completion of the project in early November in Da Nang during the APEC Economic Leaders' Week with the participation of US President Donald Trump, and other foreign leaders. An international conference will also be held to share Vietnam's experience in the work, he said, calling for the US' continued support to a similar project in Bien Hoa airport in Dong Nai province. For his part, Dr. Felter said that the US agrees with Vietnam's proposals on cooperation in coast guard, military medicine, peacekeeping, and dioxin detoxification.

The US side suggested that Vietnam continue joining bilateral and multilateral forums to prepare for the role of the ASEAN Chair in 2020. Present in the dialogue, Fern Sumpter Winbush, Principal Director for the Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency highly valued Vietnam's collaboration and support in MIA search efforts. She thanked the Vietnamese side for handing over documents relating to MIA, and creating optimal conditions for on-the-site operation of joint search teams. Following the dialogue, general Vinh and Dr. Felter witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Vietnam's Institute for Defence Strategy and the US-based Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies. On the occasion, Vinh also handed over to the US side two sets of documents supporting the MIA search. Meanwhile Dr. Felter gave Vinh personal belongings of a Vietnamese soldier died during the war with hope that he will bring it to the martyrs' family.

VNA

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January 2017 Update

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: A Marine Corps Reserve officer, 1st Lt William C. Ryan, was the first person since June of 2016 announced as accounted for from the Vietnam War. He was listed KIA/BNR on May 11, 1969, after the Phantom F4B in which he was the Radar Intercept Officer was hit by enemy fire while on a bombing pass over Savannakhet Province, Laos. He failed to respond to the pilot's repeated calls for his ejection after the aircraft was hit by enemy fire; however, the pilot ejected before the aircraft crashed and others observed only one parachute leave the aircraft. The number now still missing and otherwise unaccounted for from the Vietnam War is 1,617. Let's hope this ID is the first of many in 2017.

The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 966. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to 1,029. Of the 1,617 still missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR), 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,261 (VN-463, VS-798); Laos-300; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

DPAA BUDGET REQUIREMENTS NOT MET: It now appears DPAA will NOT have the funding in FY17 required to "increase the pace and scope of operations," as has repeatedly been requested by Vietnam. Despite continuing internal dysfunction, DPAA had been proceeding well since becoming fully operational in January of 2016. Now, however, the damage is mounting. The plus-up of \$20 million to reach the necessary FY17 budget total of \$132 million for planned operational requirements was not requested. Apparently, the ability to utilize those funds, if approved, would come too late for use in the 3rd and 4th quarters of FY17. DPAA has not yet provided clarification on any of the budget-related questions, but the full explanation should be provided without further obfuscation. **YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED! WRITE TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO REGISTER STRONG OBJECTION TO THE LACK OF ADEQUATE FUNDING TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATIONAL NEEDS IN FY17 DPAA FUNDING. ALSO, ASK FOR EXEMPTION OF DPAA FUNDING FROM ANY/ALL REDUCTIONS.** Funding for veterans care is rightfully protected by exempting Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) budgets from across-the-board reductions and/or sequestration. America's UNRETURNED VETERANS, our missing and unaccounted for men and their families, deserve equal protection by Congress. That means fully funding efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting.